

14 MAY 1954

4. ON THE 14TH OF MAY TASK FORCE 72 VESSELS  
HAD RADAR CONTACTS WHICH WERE EVALUATED AS POSSIBLY  
SUBMARINES.

25X1X7A

5. [REDACTED]  
CLAIMED TO HAVE EVIDENCE THAT SOVIET SUBMARINES WERE  
OPERATING BETWEEN HAINAN AND TONKIN.

6. [REDACTED] HAS INDICATIONS  
THAT TWO SUBMARINES NORMALLY BASED AT PORT ARTHUR  
HAVE NOT BEEN IN PORT SINCE LATE MARCH.

25X1X7A

7. ON THE BALANCE ONI BELIEVES THAT IT IS  
POSSIBLE THAT THERE MAY BE THREE SOVIET SUBMARINES  
OPERATING IN THE TONKIN GULF. HOWEVER, THIS  
INFORMATION IS NOT FIRM SINCE NO DEFINITE IDENTITY  
OF THE SUBMARINES HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

ONI DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

POSSIBLE SOVIET SUBMARINES IN TONKIN GULF

1. ON 2 APRIL A US DESTROYER, EQUIPPED WITH ELECTRONICS DETECTION EQUIPMENT, DETECTED SIGNALS FROM AN SJ TYPE SURFACE SEARCH RADAR KNOWN TO BE USED BY SOVIET SUBMARINES. THE DESTROYER WAS IN THE TONKIN GULF AT THE TIME.

2. ON 25 AND 28 APRIL TWO US AIR FORCE PLANES SIGHTED ONE AND THEN TWO SUBMARINES IN THE TONKIN GULF.

3. ON 2 MAY A US MERCHANTMAN WAS CHALLENGED 38 MILES OFF YULIN BY WHAT IT IDENTIFIED AS A SUBMARINE. THE MASTER STATED THAT THE SUBMARINE WAS IN COMPANY WITH ONE OTHER SUBMARINE

ON 30 APRIL THE SOVIET FLEET TANKER "VOLGA-DON" LEFT SINGAPORE BOUND FOR WHAMPOA. ONI SPECULATED THAT THIS VESSEL COULD HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO REFUEL THE SUBMARINES IN THE TONKIN GULF AND THAT THE SUBMARINES WHICH CHALLENGED THE US MERCHANTMAN THOUGHT SHE WAS THE "VOLGA-DON."